Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 SSM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /081 W
----------009033 031019Z /14
R 030427Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9188
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 6311

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IR
SUBJ: ACTIVITY ON POLITICAL FRONT HEATS UP

SUMMARY: MAJLIS ADJOURNS FOR SUMMER RECESS FOLLOWING FINAL STORMY SESSION ATTACKING "BREAKAWAY" DEPUTY BANI-AHMAD. DEPUTY PEZESHKPOUR LOSING SUPPORT OF SOME CONSTITUENTS. GROUP FOR STUDY OF IRANIAN PROBLEMS HOLDING MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. CONSTRUCTIVE WING SELECTS LABOR MINISTER MOINI AS COORDINATOR WHILE NIOC CHIEF ANSARY REMAINS IN WING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL. IN A FURTHER NEW TWIST, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN AFFIRM GOI INTENTION TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO WIDEN SCOPE OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION BY TOLERATING OPPOSITION "GROUPS" AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES IN JUNE 1979 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. TO US, IT SEEMS A SHORT SKIP AND A JUMP FROM "GROUPS" TO MORE POLITICAL PARTIES.

1.MAJLIS WRAPPED UP ITS SPRING SESSION WITH A HEATED SESSION JUNE 29 DURING WHICH MAJORITY OF MEMBERS VOICED STRONG OPPOSITION TO POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS OF THOSE WHO HAVE QUITE RESURGENCE PARTY SUCH AS TABRIZ DEPUTY AHMAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

BANI-AHMAD, WHO HAS BEEN CONTEMPLATING THE FORMATION OF WHAT HE CALLS A POLITICAL PARTY SIMILAR TO THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. IN A SHARP PERSONAL ATTACK DEPUTY SADRI KEIVAN, REFERRING TO PRESS REPORTS THAT BANI-AHMAD WAS CREATING A PARTY WHICH WOULD SPAN THE GAP BETWEEN THE COUNTRY'S INTELLECTUALS AND ITS RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CHARGED THAT, "WHAT BANI-AHMAD REALLY INTENDS TO

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

DO IS BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN IRAN'S MASKED MARXISTS AND ITS CLERGY." BANI-AHMAD WHO TOOK THE ROSTRUM TO REPLY WAS UNABLE EFFECTIVELY TO REFUTE THIS ALLEGATION, BEING CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTED BY OTHER DEPUTIES (EMBASSY OBSERVER CANNOT REMEMBER SUCH A FRACTIOUS LOWER HOUSE SESSION.) STUNG BY THE VOCIFEROUS CRITICISM LEVELED AT HIM IN THE MAJLIS, BANI-AHMAD ON JULY 1 ISSUED A STATEMENT VOWING TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE HIS COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY ALTHOUGH "WE DO NOT FEEL THAT THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE EXISTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AT THE MOMENT." CLEARLY THE "BREAKWAY" DEPUTIES HAVE RECEIVED NO SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FROM THEIR COLLEAGUE IF THE VOTE FOR A SUMMER RECESS IS ANY INDICATION. MOHSEN PREZESHKPOUR, ANOTHER "BREAKAWAY", HAD ASKED THAT THE PRESENT SESSION BE PROLONGED IN ORDER THAT ALL MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE TO DEBATE ONGOING DEVELOP-MENTS. SUMMER ADJOURNMENT, UNTIL OCTOBER, WAS SUPPORTED BY 167 DEPUTIES WITH EIGHT AGAINST AND FOUR ABSTENTIONS.

2. MEANWHILE, PEZESHKPOUR IS HAVING OTHER PROBLEMS CLOSER TO HOME. REPORTEDLY ONE THOUSAND RESURGENCE PARTY MEMBERS MET LAST WEEK AT MINOO ISLAND NEAR KHORRAMSHAHR TO CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF CONFIDENCE FROM THEIR DEPUTY (PEZESHKPOUR). REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL TRIBES AND AGRICULTURAL COOP-ERATIVES ANNOUNCED DURING THE MEETING THAT THEY HAD WITH-DRAWN THEIR SUPPORT FROM PEZESHKPOUR. AT CLOSE OF MEETING A RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE TO THE PRINCIPLES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 06311 01 OF 02 031006Z

OF THE PARTY AND DECLARING THAT THOSE WHO BETRAYED PEOPLE IN PARLIAMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY PEOPLE OF KHORRAM-SHAHR. PEZESHKPOUR IS ALSO FENDING OFF CHARGES THAT HIS PARTY'S PHILOSOPHY IS FASCIST BY DEFENSIVELY ASSERTING: "WHENEVER A PATRIOTIC MOVEMENT HAS TRIED TO UNDERMINE THE POWER OF FOREIGN IMPERIALISM OR ITS AGENTS, IT HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING A FASCIST MOVEMENT".

3. THIRD WING LEADER NAHAVANDI HAS BEEN CRISS-CROSSING IRAN MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF HIS GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF IRANIAN. PROBLEMS. IN SHIRAZ JUNE 29 HE SAID, "WE ARE WORKING TO CREATE A STRONG BUT RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION COUPLED WITH FARSIGHTEDNESS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE RESURGENCE PRINCIPLES". NAHAVANDI IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF HIS GROUP IN KERMANSHAH AT

CONFIDENTIAL

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 SSM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /081 W
----------009005 031018Z /14
R 030427Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9189
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 6311

THE END OF THE WEEK. SYMPTOMATIC OF INTENSE PRESS PLAY GIVEN POLITICAL DYNAMICS THESE DAYS, PRESS HAS REVEALED INTERNAL TIFF BETWEEN SECRETARIAT OF PARTY AND NAHAVANDI OVER QUESTION WHETHER THE LATTER LEARNED ABOUT THE PARTY'S APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THIRD WING DIRECTLY OR ONLY FROM PUBLISHED PRESS REPORTS.

6. NOT TO BE OUTDONE ON THE NEWS FRONT THE CONSTRUCTIVE WING OF THE RESURGENCE PARTY, FOLLOWING WEEKS OF SPECULATION, ON JULY 1 FINALLY REACHED A DECISION ON ITS NEW COORDINATOR; MINISTER OF LABOR AMIR QASSEM MOINI WILL SHARE RESPONSIBILITY AS COORDINATOR WITH NIOC CHARIMAN ANSARY, THE FORMER COORDINATOR, WHO WILL REMAIN IN THE WING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL. PRESUMABLY THIS SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY WILL ENABLE THESE TWO OVERWORKED GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO CARRY OUT THEIR PARTY DUTIES. ANSARY IN HIS RESIGNATION STATEMENT LAST MAY HAD PLEADED PREOCCUPATION WITH NIOC AS NOT ALLOWING HIM SUFFICIENT TIME TO DEVOTE TO PARTY MATTERS.

7. PURSUING LIBERALIZATION PROGRAM, MINISTER OF INFORMATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

HOMAYOUN TOLD NEWSMEN JUNE 29 THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION AMONG POLITICAL GROUPS AND THE PRESS. HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS "TOLERATING THE OPPOSITION GROUPS OUTSIDE THE SINGLE PARTY SYSTEM" AND "WILL HAVE NO OBJECTION TO INDEFENDENTS RUNNING IN THE JUNE 1979

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. IRAN IS A ONE PARTY COUNTRY, BUT NOT LIKE CLASSICAL EXAMPLES. THERE ARE GROUPS OUTSIDE THE PARTY. THESE ARE TOLERATED." IN FOLLOW UP ON JULY 1, MINISTER OF INTERIOR SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMMISSION SUPERVISING THE ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR WILL PICK CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION""REGARDLESS OF THE NATURE OF THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS". THERE HAD BEEN INTENSIVE CRITICISM IN THE MAJLIS DURING DEBATE ON THE NEW ELECTIONS BILL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES CRITICAL OF ITS POLICIES.

8. COMMENT: WITH ADJOURNMENT OF MAJLIS AND SUMMER EXODUS FOR FOREIGN VACATION RETREATS, WE MAY SEE LET UP IN RECENT UNPRECEDENTED PERIOD OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY. ALTHOUGH "BREAKAWAY" DEPUTIES APPEAR TO HAVE SUFFERED SETBACKS LAST WEEK THERE SEEMS TO BE CLEAR INDICATION THAT GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ARE MOVING TOWARD TOLERATION OF POLITICAL PLURALISM OF SOME, AS YET UNDEFINED, DIMENSION. IF POLICY ENUNICATED BY GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HOLDS FIRM DURING NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, CANDIDATES, AS INDIVIDUALS OR IN "GROUPINGS" OUTSIDE RESURGENCE FRAMEWORK, WILL BE ABLE TO CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT PARTY FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE. WHETHER THESE INDEDEPENDENTS WILL GENERATE SUFFICIENT POPULAR SUPPORT OR BE ALLOWED TO WIN ELECTION IS ANOTHER QUESTION. MEANWHILE THE RESURGENCE PARTY HAS YET TO GET ITS ACT TOGETHER. NAHAVANDI'S PEREGRINATIONS TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FROM HIS GROUP FOR THIRD WING STATUS CONTINUE, WHILE THE OTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

TWO WINGS ARE IN THE TRHROES OF REORGANIZATION AND REDEFINITION OF GOALS. AS OF NOW, A HARD-FOUGHT MAJLIS ELECTION SEEMS TO BE BUILDING UP FOR NEXT SUMMER. OUR GUESS IS THE MOMENTUM OF LIBERALIZATION WILL PRODUCE A FAIR VARIETY OF VIEWS AND CANDIDATES, EVEN PERHAPS POLITICAL PARTIES--SOMETHING UNSEEN HEREABOUTS FOR QUITE A FEW YEARS.
NAAS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN06311
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780273-1101
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780798/aaaadevi.tel
Line Count: 210
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 32c27c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2123518
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACTIVITY ON POLITICAL FRONT HEATS UP SUMMARY: MAJLIS ADJOURNS FOR SUMMER RECESS FOLLOWING FINAL STORMY SESSION ATTACKING \"BREAKAWAY\" DEPUTY BANI-A
TAGS: PINT, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/32c27c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014